



NATIONAL
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WEATHER & CROPS

Month: February 2015

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WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY, 2015

Except for a few warm days at the beginning of the month, February was a cold and snowy month. In several places, lows were recorded at sub-zero, breaking records in some counties. Snow on the ground limited feed obtained from pastures; hay stocks were quickly being depleted. Hay from out of the State was being shipped in. Prices on hay climbed upwards due to the limited supply. Small grains showed little growth due to the weather; however, good weather is expected to compensate for losses and improve conditions. Cattle showed some weight loss because of the weather. Spring calving was under way; higher than normal death losses were reported. Other farming activities for the month included preparing greenhouses for tobacco starts, making market and production plans, and attending conferences.

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat	0	3	47	50	0
Oats	0	0	73	27	0
Barley	0	4	42	54	0
Pasture	11	30	40	18	1
Livestock	1	7	35	48	9

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Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 1, 2015

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Dec 1	Dec. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	38	21	51	16	30	-10	0.54	7.60	-2.27	4.48	-2.20
Norfolk	36	25	53	20	31	-13	0.67	9.11	-1.24	5.41	-1.90
Richmond	39	23	51	17	31	-10	1.01	10.41	0.78	7.26	0.72
Roanoke	38	22	53	17	30	-11	0.29	6.47	-2.64	3.93	-2.40
Wash/Dulles	35	15	46	-4	25	-12	0.10	8.27	-0.62	5.01	-0.81

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

ROCKINGHAM (Doug Horn)

Early February was average or above average temperatures. A high of 68 degrees recorded on 2/8. Temperatures significantly below normal for the second half of February. Eleven days had single digit low temperatures.

higher than normal and feed supplies are getting low for many. Some producers have started shipping in hay from outside areas. Hay prices have increased in recent weeks because of limit supply.

WESTERN

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Open winter so far has helped conserve the limited hay resource for this year. Shortages are likely by spring.

ROCKBRIDGE (Thomas A Stanley)

Seasonally normal weather marked January 2015 with some cold temperatures but no significant snow fall. Total precipitation for the month measured at the Lexington Sewage Treatment Plant was 1.91 inches compared to a long-run average of 2.28 inches. Hay supplies are very tight due to the cold late spring that hurt first cutting hay yields and a very dry September that impacted late season hay and winter pasture stockpiling.

EASTERN

CHARLES CITY (John Allison)

Snow has been on the ground 10 days total in February

GLOUCESTER (David Moore)

Rough February. About 3 inches of moisture for the month most in the form of snow. Small grains have been "dinged" pretty well, but should recover. A lot has to happen in the next 30 days. Folks are making marketing and production plans.

LANCASTER (Trent Jones)

Lancaster and Northumberland Counties have both suffered notable snowstorms in February, as well as periods of sub-Zero temperatures.

SOUTHWESTERN

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Snow has covered pastures for the past two weeks.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Laura Siegle)

Snowy conditions and snow ground cover have made accurate assessment difficult for the last few weeks of February.

BUCKINGHAM (Jennifer Ligon)

February showed unusually cold temperatures and extremely wet conditions with abundant snowfall.

CAROLINE (Mike Broaddus)

Very snowy and cold past few months; it has been hard on cattle. Many cattle producers are starting to look around for more hay to feed as many only got 1 or maybe 2 cuttings from last year. Cattle have lost some body tissue due to snow covered fields and not being able to graze, and the bitter cold.

HENRICO (Karen Carter)

Temperatures have varied from extremely cold for the area to normal. We have had more snow cover than a normal year, so livestock are currently being fed.

LOUISA (Charles Rosson)

Cold conditions have been a challenge for livestock producers the past ten days, especially producers who have livestock calving. We have seen an increase loss of new born calves because of weather conditions. Feed consumption has been

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Colder than normal temperature and snow in Franklin County are slowing growth of all winter crops. Franklin County has seen several inches of snow in the last few weeks of February. Although warmer temperatures between snowfall melts the snow fast. Now onto mud for many farmers. Producers have had to feed a lot more feed during the cold weather. Franklin County Area Dairy Conference is March 12, 2015 at the Franklin Center in Rocky Mount.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia Gregg)

The weather this past month has been variable, but mostly cold along with some snow and ice. Producers are feeding hay to livestock regularly. Tobacco produces are getting ready seed greenhouses the last week of February.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

February very cold with frequent freezes and snow. Not very much done in fields other than feeding livestock. 99% of all crops got harvested before bad weather.